

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR YVONNE B. BURKE

June 27, 2006

Los Angeles County has undertaken a major effort to help end Homelessness as a scourge in our cities and unincorporated areas. The teams of people who make up the Skid Row Outreach Team (SROT) deserve our appreciation for their efforts and enthusiastic response to the Board's request to address the needs of people in the area of Downtown Los Angeles, known as Skid Row. The health concerns of the Team should be addressed, given the diseases, rashes, coughs and open wounds that they often encounter among those that we are trying to help. Tuberculosis screening for staff working on the SROT, the option to receive hepatitis A and B vaccinations and the issuance of Hand Sanitizer to each member are areas where the Team could be better supported.

Current health/safety education and training is being conducted by DHS Public Health for County staff working in the Skid Row area. Most health related concerns of staff are being addressed through these trainings. There are diseases that are common when there is overcrowding, lack of adequate sanitation and extreme stress. Given the gravity of the situation on Skid Row and the large number of young people on the team, more, not less health protection is warranted.

-MORE-

MOTION

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In addition to screenings and optional vaccinations, a regular debriefing or otherwise stress reducing effort should be afforded the team as a whole, if it is needed.

I, THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Instruct the Departments of Health and Mental Health to develop a protocol to provide Tuberculosis Screening, optional Hepatitis A and B vaccinations, traumatic stress relieving debrief sessions and hand sanitizers for the Skid Row Outreach Team;

I, FURTHER MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

That the Departments of Health and Mental Health report back to the Board of Supervisors within 30 days regarding the progress in implementing this new protocol.

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